REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-29 are pending. Claims 1-14 and 16 are rejected. Claims 15, 17, 19-29 are allowed.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-14 and 16. Applicants do not intend to create any estoppel by canceling pending claims 1-14 and 16. Instead, applicants are merely expediting the issuance of allowed claims 15, 17, and 19-29. Applicants reserve the right to enter claims 1-14 and 16 in a continuation application. Applicants respectfully request issuance of allowed claims 15, 17, and 19-29.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in view of the above remarks this application is in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow this application. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative regarding any issues that the Examiner feels are still outstanding.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlé Rupp et al.

Date: 3/18/04

By:_

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